

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

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LIMDIS

FOR PM DIRECTOR VEST AND NEA DEPASSTSEC SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KU
SUBJ: ACCESS OF EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS TO
CLASSIFIED IHAWK INFORMATION

REF: (A) KUWAIT 4439, (B) MICOM 080902

1. INFORMATION WHICH HAS BECOME AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO ALLOW EGYPTIAN MILITARY ADVISORS SECONDED TO KUWAIT AIR DEFENSE FORCE (KADF) ACCESS TO IHAWK CLASSIFIED MATERIAL HAS BEEN STALLED IN DOD BECAUSE OF NON-CONCURRENCE OF DEPT. OF ARMY. MY ASSUMPTION IS THAT DEPT. HAS ALREADY APPROVED GRANTING AN EXCEPTION FOR EGYPTIANS AND IS NOW AWAITING DOD ACTION.

2. ACCORDING TO A DA MEMO, WHICH DEPT. MUST HAVE SEEN, THE ARMY DOES NOT CONCUR WITH GRANTING OF AN EXCEPTION TO NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY FOR THESE EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS IN ABSENCE OF FORMAL US-EGYPTIAN SECURITY DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT. IN INTS CONCLUSIONS, DA MEMO ADMITS THAT CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER ARE PRIMARILY POLITICAL IN NATURE.

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EM THE RECENT SIGNING OF CASE UCY MAKES IT POSSIBLE

TO MOVE THE IHAWK DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM FORWARD, SO THAT HOPEFULLY ITS VARIOUS TARGET DATES CAN BE MET. THE NEXT STEP IS TO SELECT SITES FOR THE IHAWK BATTERIES. .

IN ORDER TO DO THIS, KADF MUST HAVE ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED IHAWK MATERIAL. SINCE NONE OF THE KUWAITI KADF OFFICERS ARE QUALIFIED TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM, THE PARTICIPATION OF THEIR EGYPTIAN ADVISORS IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE IHAWK PROGRAM TO MOVE FORWARD.

4. I HAVE REVIEWED THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED BY DA MEMO TO GET AROUND THIS PROBLEM AND NONE OF THEM OFFER A MORE ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION THAN TO GRANT AN EXCEPTION IN THIS CASE. THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSING ASSIGNMENT OF A PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TEAM TO ADVISE KADF ON AIR DEFENSE (PARA 4.A. OF DA MEMO) IGNORES THE POLITICAL FACTS OF LIFE IN KUWAIT. AS YOU KNOW, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE GOK TO ACCEPT US MILITARY ADVISORS, GIVEN THE DELICATE SITUATION EXISTING HERE BECAUSE OF LARGE (250,000) PALESTINIAN MAJORITY, NOT TO MENTION THE US MILITARY ASSISTANCE ROLE WITH RESPECT TO ISRAEL. MOREOVER, SINCE KUWAIT'S AIR DEFENSE IS DIRECTED AGAINST IRAQ, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY FURTHER WAY OTHER THAN WE ARE NOW, I.E., FURNISHING DEFENSIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT THE KUWAITIS DESIRE TO BUY.

5. BUT I DO NOT NEED TO RECITE THESE AND OTHER POLITICAL ARGUMENTS OF WHICH YOU ARE AS FULLY AWARE AS I AM. ON THE OTHER HAND, I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE DECISION ON THIS MATTER SHOULD BE HELD UP BY OBJECTIONS QUOTE PRIMARILY POLITICAL IN NATURE UNQUOTE PUT FORWARD BY DEPT. OF ARMY, WHICH, IN MY OPINION, IS NOT QUALIFIED TO VOICE THIS TYPE OF OBJECTION. NOTHING I HAVE SEEN IN DA MEMO MAKES A CASE FOR DENYING ACCESS BECAUSE IT WOULD BE HARMFUL TO US DEFENSE INTERESTS (WHICH I WOULD PRESUME TO BE DA'S CONCERN). IHAWK SYSTEM IS BEING SOLD TO SAUDIS AND JORDANIANS. IF EGYPTIANS WANT ANY INFORMATION ON IHAWK, THEY CAN EASILY GET IT FROM OTHER ARAB SOURCES BESIDES KUWAIT.

6. I AM NOT COMPETENT TO COMMENT FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT
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ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN THE ALTERNATIVE OF NEGOTIATING A FORMAL US-EGYPTIAN SECURITY DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT (PARA 4.B.) WHICH DA SEEMS TO FAVOR. IT WOULD SEEM TO ME TO BE FAR MORE OBJECTIONABLE AT THIS STAGE TO OPT FOR A BROAD DISCLOSURE POLICY WITH EGYPT THAN A LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR KUWAIT.

7. IF THE OBSTACLE TO A DECISION ON THIS MATTER RELATES TO

A QUESTION OF TIMING, RELEASE OF IHAWK MATERIAL COULD BE DELAYED WITH SOME DIFFICULTY, FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS, BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE LIGHT AT END OF THIS TUNNEL.

8. IF LAST POINT IS NOT A CONSIDERATION, I URGE STRONGLY THAT WE GET ON WITH THIS MATTER AND PRESS DOD FOR ITS PROMPT CONCURRENCE TO GRANTING ACCESS TO THESE EGYPTIAN ADVISORS. I MUST REMIND YOU THAT, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN GOK'S SIGNATURE ON CASE UCY BY AUGUST 31, WE CONSTANTLY REITERATED NEED TO ADHERE TO IHAWK DEPLOYMENT SCHEDULE, WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE GONE AWRY WITH RESULTING DELAYS TO PROGRAM. IF WE, ON OUR PART, NOW DRAG OUR FEET ON THIS ISSUE, IT WILL NOT BE COMPREHENSIBLE TO KUWAITIS.
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